



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Highway Patrol Responds to ACLU Lawsuit

SACRAMENTO - The following statement was provided by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Commissioner Dwight "Spike" Helmick.

"The CHP does not condone racial profiling and has policies in place to prohibit such actions.

Due to the recent issues regarding racial profiling on the east coast, we have been reviewing internal policies and practices regarding our highway drug interdiction program, including Operation Pipeline. We have gone even further and taken steps to ensure documentation by CHP officers related to this program are consistent with both policy and the law. I want to assure California citizens that I will do everything in my power to make sure racial profiling does not happen here.

The fact that the ACLU has announced the filing of a lawsuit alleging this violation of civil rights based on racial profiling should not infer that this has actually occurred in the CHP. The CHP, as alleged by the ACLU, does not engage in race-based stops and the fact that 34,000 stops based on traffic violations resulted in 2 percent of those carrying illegal drugs, just shows that we are doing our job — traffic safety and enforcement of the California Vehicle code."

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